

Spark Gap

Volume 27, Issue 7, July 2010 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Twenty-Six Years*

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, SK



It comes with great sadness to announce the passing of Dave Wendt, KA9OOH. Dave touched the lives of many hams in Central Indiana. If you earned an Amateur Radio license Dave probably had a hand in your success. Dave may have taught you in his

class or signed off on your license as a volunteer examiner. Dave began helping administer Amateur Radio tests in the early 1990's. He took over as VEC of the Franklin VE group shortly after he became an extra class operator in September 2001.

Even before upgrading Dave enjoyed teaching ham radio theory to new comers. He enjoyed working CW and SSB early in his ham radio career and often shared his rare QSL contacts with class members.

Dave was always eager to help with public service events in Johnson and surrounding counties. He was one of the first Mid-State ARC presidents, holding that office in 1987. All his contributions to amateur radio and to the club earned him Life Member status several years ago. Dave passed away during the weekend of July 10, 2010. At the age of 68 KA9OOH became a Silent Key. -W8ISH

Minutes from the first two meetings of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club per our history site:

On February 18, 1984 at the House of Franklin at 0730 hours the Johnson County Radio Club ARES meeting was called to order by Paul Thomas KA9DTH, with eighteen members attending. During this meeting nominations for officers was opened and the following names were submitted to the membership. President - Darrel Sego KM9S, Bill Fisher KG9K. Vice President - Dave Distler KM9E, Joan Kemp N9DON. Secretary Treasurer - Dan Cammack W9MLN, Dave Wendt KA9OOH.

The following members were elected to their respective offices, Bill, President, Joan, Vice President and Dan, Secretary Treasurer. Some time after the February 18 meeting the elected President Bill Fisher advised he would not be able to fulfill his obligation due to his work schedule and will resign. At the next meeting March 17, 1984 was called to order at 7:30a.m. by Vice President Joan Kemp and the main items of business were the election of a President and the selection of a name for the Club. The following names were placed into nomination: Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, Tom Cashion, KD9EQ, Jay Chrisman Sr., KA9MUU. Dave was asked prior to the meeting if his name could be placed into nomination, he agreed. Dave said he was new to the group, he had been nominated for Secretary Treasurer at the first meeting and lost, so thought he had no chance to be elected President. Well, to Dave's surprise he was elected President.

*The Official
Newsletter of the
Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club*



Mid-State Amateur
Radio Club
P. O. Box 836
Franklin, IN 46131
www.midstatehams.org

Field Day Follow-Up

From the President:

Another much anticipated ARRL Field Day event has come and gone. The club's effort for 2010 was from the QTH of Steve Brown, N9LC. Steve graciously volunteered to host the event out in the open fields south of Franklin where we could string antennas and set up our portable operation for the day. We were afforded some luxuries that are not always available in the "field" during these annual excursions. Such things included a gas grill for cooking burgers and franks (by Steve), a covered picnic area to consume the noon feast, ample shade trees, and best of all, an available indoor bathroom (with air conditioning).

Start time for the contest is 1800 UCT (2 p.m. local). We had planned to arrive at Steve's around 10:00 a.m. to give us time to leisurely get everything set up and operational before lunch. The timing worked out pretty well. It was a very hot day, and by the time we got the mast erected, antennas strung and raised, the shelter assembled, and the tables and radio equipment set up it was noon. We operated Class 2A, which is the club designation with 2 transmitters in simultaneous operation. We used N9LC as our call sign this year. Steve N9LC operated one position while Steve K9DY and Dave KB9LOT took shifts at the other operating position.

The band conditions were pretty good on 10-20-40 meters and we even heard some openings on 6 meters, but were unable to make any contacts. We operated for about 5 hours and made 65 total contacts, all on SSB. Nine were on 40 meters, 36 were on 20 meters and 20 were on 10 meters. We contacted 29 different ARRL sections including 2 Canadian provinces. Dave even bagged a contact on 20 meters with W1AW, the ARRL flagship station in Newington, CT.

Club members attending Field Day were N9LC, KB9LOT, KC9EBL, N9SIU, KC9ODW, and K9DY. One visitor,

KM9U, also stopped by for an eyeball QSO and to check out the club. The weather was extremely hot as had been the case for most of June and for Field Day on June 26, it was well into the 90's with high humidity. We did some relaxed operating and drank plenty of water. Fortunately we had big shade trees and a nice breeze most of the day, which made conditions more tolerable. We had hoped for more attendees but the hot weather was a detriment, and several of our usual participants were unable to attend due to illness or other commitments. The next portable operating event for the adventurous is the Indianapolis Radio Club's annual Hilltop event in August. —Steve K9DY

Equip. Sale

CLUB RECORDS RECORD SALES OF USED EQUIPMENT

The hot values in ham radio gear matched the July temps at the Indy Hamfest. Paul Hise AA9GY, Steve Carmean K9DY and Jack Parker W8ISH set up shop early in the flea market hoping to capture some sunrise sales. First off the shelf was a Heathkit Receiver and power supply. Even before most hams had downed their first cup of java that classic radio combo was on its way home to Cadillac, Michigan.

Paul's duel rotor satellite system captured another buyer as Steve unloaded the Kenwood 711 all-mode 2-meter rig. Most radio and computer items were donated to the club by former and current club members.

By noon the sales were cooling as July temps continued to rise. Our club sales force loaded up the few remaining items, counted the money and headed for the exit. The total sales tally will be announced at the July club meeting. -w8ish

Officers

President:
Steve Carmean,
K9DY

Vice President:
Dave Daily,
KB9LOT

Secretary:
Robert Jones,
KC9NJM

Treasurer:
Jacki Frederick,
K16QOG

Repeater Trustee:
Jay Chrisman,
AA9YP

Spark Gap Editors:
Bob LaGrange,
N9SIU

Linda Harshbarger,
KC9GCH

Tuner Donated

TUNER DONATED TO USS INDIANAPOLIS MUSEUM

A World War II antenna tuner has been donated to the USS Indianapolis ship museum by the Mid-State ARC. While cleaning up the EOC radio room Steve K9DY and Jack W8ISH found an old HF high power antenna tuner. The two foot square antenna matching device appears to be circa World War II. After finding no record of personal ownership the decision was made to add our small contribution to the ship museum at the World War Memorial.

Chuck Crist W9IH thanked the club on behalf of the museum staff. The donated tuner is in storage waiting for additional parts before moving into the first floor display. Future plans will incorporate it as the antenna tuner for one or more of the high power (400 watt) transmitters on display in the radio room exhibit.

Chuck encourages all hams to visit the USS Indianapolis radio room reproduction at the World War Memorial. He asks that everyone take time to log some contacts using the restored radio equipment. The exhibit is staffed most days by Amateur Radio Operators for tours and or on air operation. Thanks to MARC the WW2IND radio station has a new, used piece of radio history. -w8ish

VEC Testing

Our Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) team is ARRL accredited, and capable of administering any amateur radio test. As a public service, the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors test sessions after all but one of its monthly meetings. (September testing is done prior to the picnic.) Meetings begin at 8:00 AM with testing following the meeting (begins about 9:30 AM until 11:00 AM). We would love to have you join us for the meeting. Please check out our website at www.midstatehams.org for directions.

ARRL VEC Update

First Half of 2010 Sees Upswing in New Amateur Radio Licenses

ARRL News: 07/13/2010

With more than 18,000 new Amateur Radio licenses issued in the first half of this year — 18, 270 to be exact — 2010 is shaping up to be a banner year for Amateur Radio. So far, the number of new licenses issued by the FCC in 2010 is outpacing the January-June 2009 totals by almost 8.5 percent; at this time last year, the FCC had issued 16,844 new licenses.

In 2009, a total of 30,144 new licenses were granted, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368 new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks — just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000, a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

As of June 30, 2010, there are 694,346 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 1 percent rise over all of 2009. In 2009, there were 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class at the end of June 2010, there were 16,299 Novices, 342,064 Technicians, 154,284 Generals, 60,059 Advanced and 121,640 Amateur Extra licensees.

Editor's Note: MARC has been blessed with a strong and active VEC Team headed up by Dave Wendt, KA9OOH, SK. In January 2010 he reported the count for 2009 that included 34 new technicians, 11 new general, and 4 new extra class licenses. And those numbers did not include the testing performed at the Columbus Hamfest or the other special testing events held for the year.

Great job team, 73 Dave.

WA9RDF

Repeater

146.835/

146.235 MHz

151.4 Hz PL

Tone

Weekly Net

Every Sunday

at 7PM ET

Tune in to hear

the ARRL

Newsline!

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club sponsors a weekly traffic and social net on our repeater. The net begins at 7:00 p.m. local time, and features local news, announcements, and NTS traffic, as well as rebroadcasts of Amateur Radio Newsline. This is a great chance to meet other local amateur radio operators and test your operating skills.

2010 Schedule of Events

JULY 2010

- 10 40th Annual Indianapolis Hamfest, Indianapolis, IN**
Camp Sertoma, US 52 & German Church Road, Indianapolis, IN
- 17 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

AUGUST 2010

- 15 40th Annual Lafayette Hamfest, Lafayette, IN**
Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds, Home Econ Building, Lafayette, IN
- 21 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)
- 21 3rd Annual Tailgators Hamfest, Osgood, IN**
Details in next month's newsletter.

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 18 MARC Meeting, Picnic and Elections - 11:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
VEC testing will begin at 8:00 AM at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. Picnic will begin at about 11:00 AM at a location to be announced at a later date. Following the food will be a short meeting and election of officers.

OCTOBER 2010

- 16 MARC Meeting - 8:00 AM, Franklin, IN**
Located at the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, IN. VEC Testing after the meeting (approx. 9:30 am to 11:00 am)

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Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.



July 2010 Newsletter – Photo Pages

For a guy who takes a lot of photos, he sure gets his taken by others. Jack W8ISH at the Strawberry Festival



USS Indianapolis World War II Museum





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Beth Jones, winner of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security donated weather radio. Beth is the lucky winner at the Strawberry Festival.



Paul AA9GY amateur radio equipment sales person of the day at the Indianapolis Hamfest.



Paul AA9GY sales supervisor and Steve K9DY salesman at the Indianapolis Hamfest.





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Relaxation tent.



Dave, KA9OOH, SK (left)
doing his VEC stuff.

